# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

*Published Weekly by*

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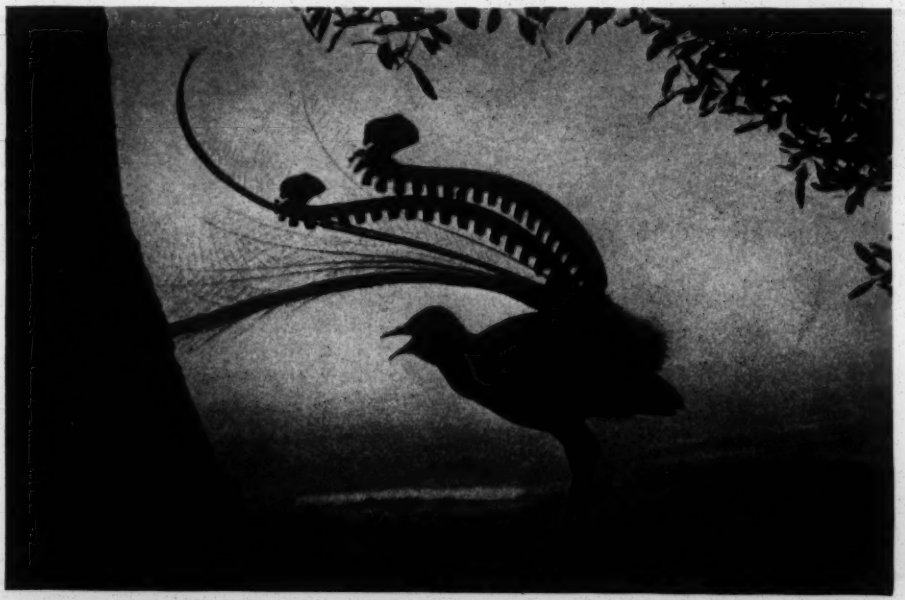

*Photograph from A. N. T. A.*

**LIKE A CHANTICLEER, THE LYREBIRD WELCOMES THE DAWN OF AUSTRALIA'S ANNIVERSARY**

English lovers of the lark and robin found Australian bird life strange and exotic: the man-size emu which cannot fly, the laughing kookaburra, the dancing bowerbird in his decorated arbor of sticks. One of the most startling was the lyrebird (above) in his fancy-dress costume of lyre-shaped tail feathers. He sounds as strange as he looks, for he can imitate other birds and animals, and even a train whistle (Bulletin No. 1).

**HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS**

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## Australia's 150th Birthday Party Starts at Sydney

SYDNEY, which will celebrate its 150th birthday anniversary on January 26, is Australia's metropolis and the third largest city south of the Equator.

In its century and a half of existence the city, situated on one of the finest natural harbors in the world, has grown to have a population of more than one and a quarter million. Only Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires in the southern hemisphere exceed it in size.

All Australia will participate in the three-month celebration, for January 26, 1938, marks not only the sesquicentennial of Sydney, but also that of the Australian nation.

### Captain Arthur Phillip, First Governor of Australia

Residents and other spectators, gathered on the shores of the city's hill-girt blue harbor, will watch 18th-century sailing vessels arrive and anchor. From them, costumed settlers and soldiers in red coats, knee breeches, and cocked hats will disembark to reenact the momentous event of January 26, 1788—the actual arrival there of the first British settlers in Australia.

These were 700 convicts and 200 soldiers, led by Captain Arthur Phillip, who spent eight months on the voyage from England. Because of the backwardness of the British penal system of those days, many of the convicts were political offenders or children suffering long prison terms for trifling offenses. Since the American Revolution had prevented their deportation to America, they were sent to colonize this land "down under."

Until then Australia had been an unexplored wilderness, inhabited only by strange animals and black aborigines. The land looked so promising, however, that it might, Captain Phillip wrote home, "compensate Britain for the loss of America."

Captain Phillip's "First Fleet" of eleven vessels sailed between tall cliffs marking the entrance into a harbor which penetrates inland 13 miles. Its numerous outthrust arms and coves give it the shape of a fern leaf and a shore line of 190 miles. Each inlet is a small deep-water harbor in itself. Landing at one, about four miles inland on the southern shore, Captain Phillip named it Sydney Cove for Lord Sydney, then Secretary for the British Colonies. Today, Circular Quay on this cove remains the shipping center of the busy modern port. One of the largest arch bridges in the world, opened in 1932, connects the southern and northern shores (illustration, inside cover).

### Sydney—Australia's Largest Port

Because the harbor is really a drowned river valley, wooded hills rise from the water's edge to the Blue Mountains, scarred with deep ravines. By making escape difficult, these aided the growth of the early penal settlement. The practice of sending convicts there was abandoned by 1840. The arrival of free settlers, the 1851 gold rush to the interior, the growth of the sheep industry and farming (events which will be dramatized in the sesquicentennial)—all helped to give Sydney its present ranking as a leading city of the British Empire.

Sydney is Australia's largest port, and through it the wool, minerals and other products of New South Wales are shipped. About 7,000 vessels dock each year at the port's fourteen miles of wharves.



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*Photograph by Theo. Purcell*

**WHERE A NEWER NEW WORLD ACKNOWLEDGES IT IS 150 YEARS OLD**

**When the New World of America was closed to English colonization by the Revolution, a newer world was found in Australia. In January, 1788, 11 ships of convict settlers sailed into Sydney Cove (extreme left) and founded the southernmost continent's first city. The old skyline is broken by tall trim lines of business buildings and the rainbow arch of the Sydney Harbor Bridge, one of the longest (1,650 feet) and widest (160 feet) bridges of its kind (Bulletin No. 1).**

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## Winged Words "Bounce" by Short Wave Radio

HOW radio has abolished geographic barriers was stressed by the broadcasting of President Roosevelt's January message to Congress by short wave to the four quarters of the globe.

Long distances were cancelled by short waves, and broadcasts were repeated by electrical transcription at hours convenient for reception in Australia and the Orient. Language barriers as well as distance barriers were overcome, with translators putting the President's words into French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish.

When these words finally reached outposts of civilization in deserts, jungles, and on ships at sea via short-wave receiving sets, listeners perhaps did not all realize that the sounds they heard had traveled to them in a series of giant "bounces" between earth and sky.

### Radio Uses Rubber-Ball Technique in Travel

Radio short waves, in crossing the ocean, are not content to chug along like a sedate ocean liner. They are far too exuberant for that. They must bounce up and down between sea and sky, as a rubber ball bounces between your hand and a sidewalk. (They travel on land the same way.)

What is there in the sky for them to bounce against? Not clouds, for they bounce far higher than the clouds. Looking upward, nothing is visible, but there is something there. It is a nebulous layer of electrified particles, between 60 and 200 miles up, a kind of shell surrounding the earth as a rind surrounds a melon.

Sometimes this is called the "radio roof" or the "ionosphere." One can see through it, on out toward the stars, and if one were in the middle of it he would not know it was there. But nevertheless it stops the radio waves, and reflects them back toward the earth as a mirror reflects a beam of light. Striking the earth at an angle, the radio waves bounce upward again like the paths of a ping pong ball, only to be batted earthward once more by reflection from the ionosphere.

### Sun Affects Short Waves

This "radio mirror" has three different layers. The lowest, called by scientists the E-region, has about 3,000,000 electrified particles to the cubic inch. The second, known as the $F_1$-region, has approximately 5,300,000 per cubic inch, and the uppermost, or $F_2$-region, has about 16,000,000 electrified particles or ions crammed into each cubic inch of space. The second layer reflects shorter radio waves than the first, and the third reflects shorter waves than either of the other two.

The gases of the region are electrified by ultraviolet light and perhaps also by bombardment of tiny particles thrown out from the sun in the vicinity of sunspots. When these radiations from the sun strike molecules of air, scientists believe the molecules become disrupted and thereby electrified. The electrically charged fragments of molecules are called ions, from which the ionosphere takes its name.

The increase and decrease in the numbers of sunspots over a regular period of eleven years has an effect on the "radio mirror." When sunspots are increasing, as they are at present, there is also an increase in the amount of radiation from the sun which produces electrified particles. This increases the number of particles,



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Sydney has more than a million and a quarter people, nearly half the number of inhabitants in the State of New South Wales, of which it is the capital. The city is connected by daily airplane service with other parts of Australia. In addition to impressive government buildings, two cathedrals, colleges, and parks, it has large stores and hotels that show American influence, except in their lack of height, for, by law, none can be higher than 150 feet.

Built around a lively harbor and within easy reach of numerous beaches, Sydney has the air of a gay pleasure resort. It maintains nearly 5,000 factories which turn out such every-day commodities as wagons, clothing, stoves, and hardware. As soon as factories and offices close for the day, workers are off to the beaches to swim, fish, or sail. On week-ends, the blue harbor swarms with hundreds of white-sailed pleasure boats.

Note: Descriptions and illustrations of Australia are found in the following: "Beyond Australia's Cities," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1936; "Capital Cities of Australia," December, 1935; "Shark-Fishing, an Australian Industry," September, 1932; "Koala, or Australian Teddy Bear," September, 1931; "Great Barrier Reef and Its Isles," September, 1930; "Seeing the World from the Air," March, 1928; "From London to Australia by Aeroplane," March, 1921; "Lonely Australia: The Unique Continent," December, 1916; and "Great Britain's Bread Upon the Water," March, 1916.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Canberra, Australia's 'Country Town' Capital," week of January 11, 1937.

**Bulletin No. 1, January 24, 1938.**

*Photograph by W. Robert Moore*

**IT'S SUMMER TIME DOWN IN SYDNEY NOW**

**Australia's 150th birthday on January 26 starts off a season of outdoor sports, picnics, and beach parties in Southern Hemisphere cities. One of Sydney's popular resorts is Manly, where swimming in an enclosed pool in the harbor includes self-ducking for all who cannot keep their foothold on these rotors. A sliding board in the background is another source of sport.**

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## South with the Sun to Florida

AS ADVANCE trickles of winter travel into Florida swell to a flood in January, historians chuckle over an ancestor of the modern Chamber of Commerce "lure literature," boosting the Flowered Land. *A brief description of the Province of Carolina on the coasts of Florida,* a London advertising circular of 1669, was recently unearthed in an Annapolis, Maryland, library.

Dating from the unconfined days when Florida covered the entire South up to Virginia, the pamphlet reveals that even then Florida publicity was being tried out in such phrases as: "many sorts of fruit trees," "two crops of Indian corn in one year," and "the most temperate clime."

Assurance was offered to "any maid or single woman" that "if they be but civil, and under 50 years of age, some honest man or other will purchase them for their wives."

### Today's "Gold Rush" for Sunshine

Floridians numbered only 34,730 in the first census (1830) after the United States had acquired its southernmost State. But by 1930 the population was up almost 500 per cent. A half-million came to call Florida home during the hectic decade of the 1920's, making it the second fastest growing State in the Union.

More numerous are the "snow birds" or Floridians-for-a-while, visitors for a week or a season whose legions, according to an unofficial hotel census, during a year outnumber the permanent residents. The vanguard arrives before Christmas, and small invasions from the north take place every month.

But a veritable army of occupation is swept down by northern wintry winds in January. From the Maine coast to the Mississippi, and westward, this annual gold rush in quest of winter sunshine funnels visitors down into the long narrow Florida peninsula, to latitudes farther south than the semi-tropical resort of Bermuda. Yachts join the floating population, for which as many as 23,000 boats may register in a year. Air and rail lines (illustration, next page) hasten the winter colonist to his place in the sun. Highways pour most of the mass migration through Jacksonville at the rate of one motor car, many with trailers, a minute.

### No Place More Than 75 Miles from Salt Water

Oldsters on pensions, who would rather read in the papers about icy pavements back home than slip on them, flock to this arm of the United States thrust farthest toward the tropics. Young sun-baskers descend on Florida to get 15 degrees farther south than the fashionable European resorts on the Riviera. Sports fans and wintering baseball teams go south of the Suwannee to exercise outdoors with sleeves rolled up and collars ajar. The tired business man buys shares of sunshine on the open beach, while northern newspapers are flown down by air express to keep him in touch with business.

When the United States acquired this State where the summer-lovers spend the winter, its price was two million dollars less than that paid for Alaska. For swimmers, fishermen, and shore-baskers, Florida offers the longest coastline of any State, of which almost 800 miles are beaches—smooth as damp satin underfoot and almost sugar-white.

In this slender State, no place is more than 75 miles from the booming Atlantic surf or the broad blue Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf Stream, sweeping up from the Equator and eastward around Florida's tip, lifts east coast winter temperatures a degree or two above those on the west coast.



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permitting the reflection of shorter radio waves, and so, during times of increasing sunspots, long distance radio transmission with shorter wave lengths is possible.

### Around the World in a Second Minus

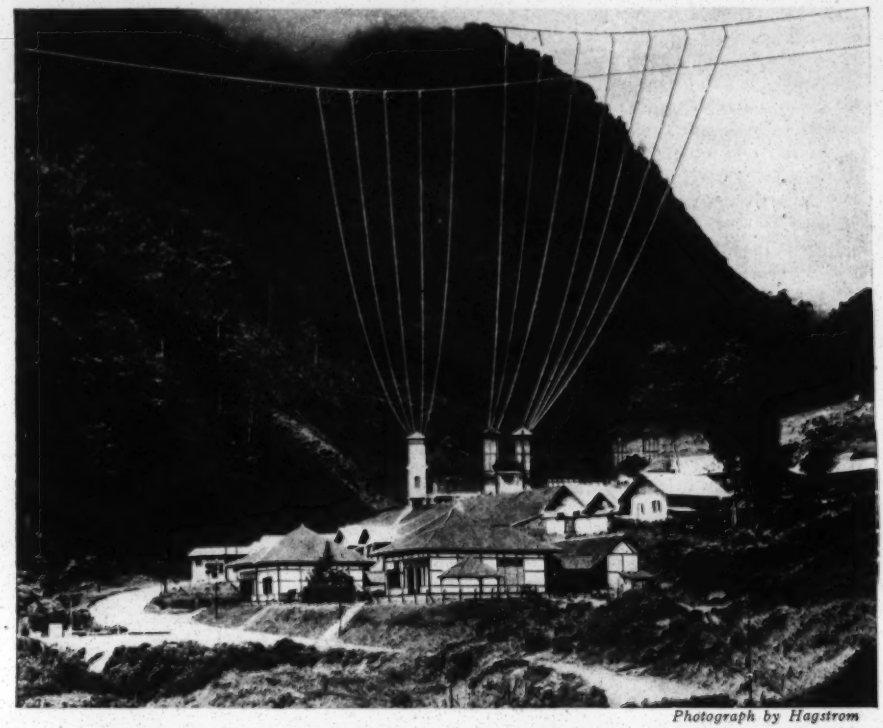
Modern radio makes it possible for a man's voice to "put a girdle 'round the earth" in far less than the 40 minutes Puck required in Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream.* Not even 40 seconds is required today. In a recent test, a man's voice traveling by a combination of radio short wave circuits and telephone wires, girdled the earth in one-third of one second.

How far-flung an audience was brought within easy range of the President's voice by radio is indicated by the vast distances bridged even by ordinary, everyday radio telephone conversations between the United States and an increasing number of foreign lands.

The radio telephone circuit to Australia, for example, consists of a channel across the Atlantic, linked with another from London that jumps eastward to Sydney, a distance of 10,600 miles. And when radio transmission is better in the other direction, as it sometimes is, the circuit runs westward from London to Sydney, some 14,400 miles.

Note: See also "The Miracle of Talking by Telephone," *National Geographic Magazine,* October, 1937; and "Nature's Most Dramatic Spectacle," September, 1937.

**Bulletin No. 2, January 24, 1938.**



*Photograph by Hagstrom*

**FROM THESE WIRES, TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS TAKE A RADIO BOUNCE**

**Just as the telephone cooperates with radio in getting a long-wave broadcast under way, so short wave radio takes over the telephone's job for the trans-Pacific jump from the Netherlands Indies (above) to San Francisco. This radio transmitter station at Bandoeng, in Java, picks up transoceanic telephone conversations and gives them a 9,000-mile lift on short waves instead of wires. The antenna wires give a startlingly modern touch to the oriental landscape.**

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## Speed and Distance Records Fell in 1937

THE folk tales of tomorrow may be budding in the speed records of today. Who knows but that the Paul Bunyan of the marveling next generation may be some speed demon slashing down time and distance figures, a pioneer not in where he goes but in how quickly he gets there?

Over land, on water, and through the air, man set new marks for speed, distance, and altitude during 1937. By land plane a speed of 379.16 miles per hour was reached; by automobile, 311.42 miles per hour; and by motorboat, 129.416 miles per hour.

The land plane record was made November 11 at Augsburg, Germany, by Chief Pilot Wurster of the Bavarian Airplane Works. Captain George E. T. Eyston of England captured the automobile speed record November 19 on Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah. The world motorboat speed record was established September 2 by Sir Malcolm Campbell of England (illustration, next page).

### Speedier Atlantic Crossings

Records for both eastbound and westbound crossings of the Atlantic by ship fell during 1937, and both to the French liner *Normandie*. On August 1 the westbound crossing was made in 3 days 23 hours 2 minutes (an average speed of 30.58 knots). On August 8 the *Normandie* crossed eastward in 3 days 22 hours 7 minutes (average, 31.20 knots).

Fastest long run by a railway train was made on May 17 by the Sante Fe Railroad's streamlined, Diesel-electric-motored *Super Chief*, which reached Chicago after a 2,228-mile run from Los Angeles in 36 hours and 49 minutes.

The fastest crossing of the United States ever made was accomplished January 19 by Howard Hughes, who flew 2,490 miles from Los Angeles, California, to Newark, New Jersey, in 7 hours 28 minutes 25 seconds. His average speed was 327.151 miles an hour.

### New Airplane Distance Record

A new non-stop airplane distance record was established July 14 by three Russian flyers, Gromoff, Yumosheff, and Danilin, who flew 6,262 miles from Moscow, over the North Pole, to San Jacinto, California. The flight exceeded the existing record (made in 1933 by the French flyers Rossi and Codos) by more than 600 miles.

Two Japanese flyers, Iinuma and Tsukagoshi, cut more than two days off the Tokyo-London flight time when they landed at Croydon airfield April 9 after an elapsed time of 94 hours 18 minutes (3 days 22 hours 18 minutes). The distance traversed was nearly 10,000 miles. Several stops were made.

A 7,700-mile flight from Paris to Santiago, Chile, was completed in the record time of 58 hours 41 minutes on November 23 by Paul Codos of France. On the same flight the distance between Paris and Buenos Aires was covered in 52 hours 50 minutes, also a new record. Three stops were made between Paris and Santiago.

A record-breaking round-trip flight, London-Capetown-London, was made in November in 5 days 17 hours 28 minutes by the British flyers, Arthur E. Clouston and Mrs. Betty Kirby-Green. They also established new records from London to



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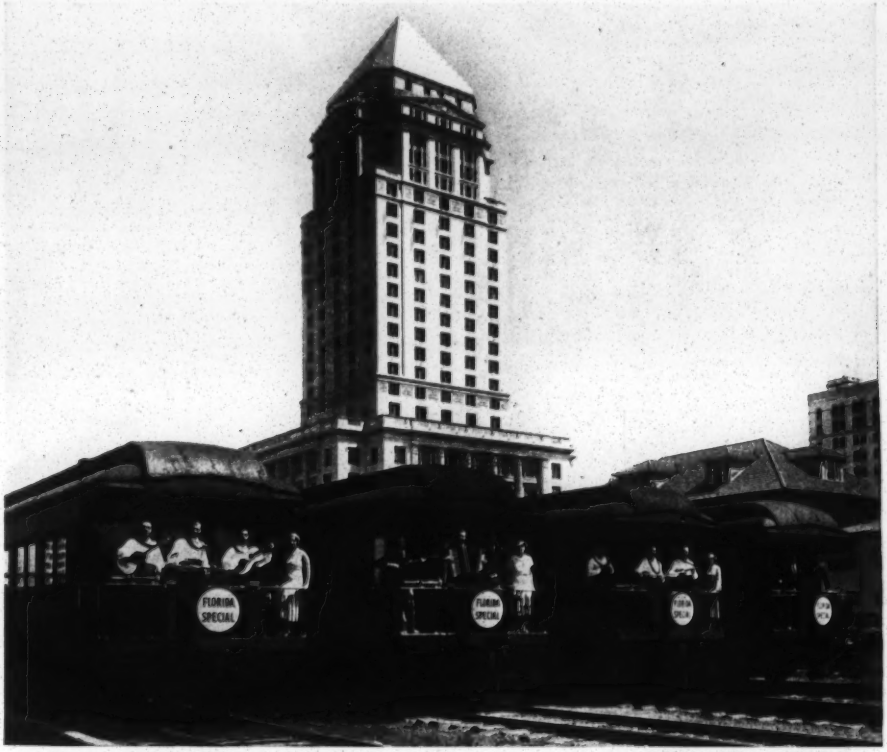
The winter trek to Florida comfort is almost as well defined as the Moslem pilgrimage to Mecca. Virtually all routes converge on Jacksonville, inland port on the St. Johns River, where palm trees in the parks and alligator farms give a hint of Florida's subtropical intentions. Rushed vacationists dash on down the east coast, Miami-wards. More leisurely sunshine fans sift over to the quieter west coast cities. It is easy to compare coasts before making a choice, as railroad tickets down one coast are honored on the short cross-country jaunt to the other without additional cost.

A favorite loop through Florida is the trip from Jacksonville to Miami, through the Everglades on the famous Tamiami Trail to Fort Myers on the west coast, up through Tampa to Gainesville, then back to Jacksonville or west to the little capital, Tallahassee, and Pensacola.

Note: The January, 1930, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine* contains an article about the State of Florida—"Florida—The Fountain of Youth," including numerous black and white and color photographs and a map supplement of the State in colors.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Bringing Back the Yesterdays of Old St. Augustine," week of April 5, 1937; and "New Ship Canal to Invade the Florida Forests," week of October 21, 1935.

**Bulletin No. 3, January 24, 1938.**

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**FLORIDA IS THE GOAL OF THE LONGEST DISTANCE TRAFFIC RUSH**

**Leading Florida port of call for the winter migrant is Miami, symbolized by its skyscraper City Hall. The great southward flow of humans is reflected in train traffic. For fifty years the Atlantic Coast Line has been running an all-Pullman Florida Special. Now the travel on that train alone, between January 1 and April 15, requires daily several sections, each with somewhat over 150 passengers. The photograph shows four sections; the record so far is seven. Each section has a recreation car and hostess. Instead of the orchestra shown in the picture, the train amusement program this season is trying piano music and movies.**

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## Strawberries and Lobsters from "Robinson Crusoe's Isle"

WHEN Alexander Selkirk, sailor on whose experiences Daniel Defoe based *Robinson Crusoe,* was put ashore on Juan Fernández Island, this Pacific dot was so isolated that four lonely years passed before he was taken off again.

But pity for his plight might turn to envy if the world knew more of the island's native foods. Lobsters are shipped regularly to Argentine tables, and now a California expedition plans to stop by Juan Fernández to pick strawberries. The island berries have a hardiness in resisting disease which may improve United States strawberries if the two strains were crossed.

The famous lobsters are rushed alive from Juan Fernández by boat to Chile 365 miles away, and from there are lifted by plane over the Andes, at an altitude of three and one-half miles, to Buenos Aires for dinner.

### Fisherfolk Prefer Canned Salmon

Strangely beautiful is this renowned island of exile. Rising 3,000 feet from the sea, its wooded ridges are veiled in fantastic lacy patterns of silvery fog.

Now, where Selkirk hunted, huddles a hamlet of Chilean fisherfolk with the boats and sheds of a lobster-catching industry. Delicate, delicious lobsters they are, but the men who catch them prefer a can of ordinary American salmon enough to quarrel about it!

Más a Tierra (Landward) is the correct name of this island on which Alexander Selkirk was put ashore in 1709. Nearby is Goat Island, and about 100 miles westward lies Más Afuera, or Further Out Island.

These three bleak specks in the Pacific off Chile's coast form the Juan Fernández group, named after the Spaniard who discovered them in 1563. Now they belong to Chile—in law; but in imagination every schoolboy claims a proprietary interest here.

Today on this island one hears much talk about lobsters, but little of Robinson Crusoe. The easy-going, Spanish-speaking inhabitants, shut off from the world and the scores of books that describe their island, do not suspect how famous it is. Nearly all its 287 people make a living in the lobster trade (see illustration, next page).

### Once Caught on Shore

Here is one of the most extraordinary shellfish industries in the world. In one year 80,000 or more lobsters are caught, not counting the small ones thrown back. Once these creatures swarmed the shores in such armies that the islanders had only to strew bits of meat along the beach, then walk about with a stick and tip the lobsters over on their backs.

Thanks to wise conservation methods of the Chilean Government, island waters still abound with lobsters; but now they are caught with hoop nets set offshore and baited with stale fish. The fishermen go out long before dawn to tend the traps. Over a charcoal stove astern they make coffee and broil fish for breakfast—but nobody ever eats a lobster.

To keep the catch alive, buckets of sea water are dashed over the crawling creatures and a tarpaulin is used to shade them from the sun.

No lobster thrives long out of salt water. So, usually within 24 hours after catching them, the Crusoe Island fishermen try to get their lobsters to port and into



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Capetown (45 hours 2 minutes) and Capetown to London (57 hours 23 minutes). The flights were not non-stop. The distance covered between London and Capetown is approximately 7,000 miles.

A new non-stop distance record for seaplanes was made October 26 by Lieutenant de Vaisseau of France, in a 3,435.3-mile flight from Port Lyautey, French Morocco, to Maceio, Brazil.

### Woman Sets New Australia-England Mark

The Australia-to-England airplane record was broken October 24 by Jean Batten of New Zealand who flew from Darwin, Australia, to Lympne, Kent, in 5 days 18 hours 15 minutes.

A round-trip flight across the North Atlantic, United States to England and return, in five days was made by Henry T. ("Dick") Merrill and John S. Lambie between May 9 and 14.

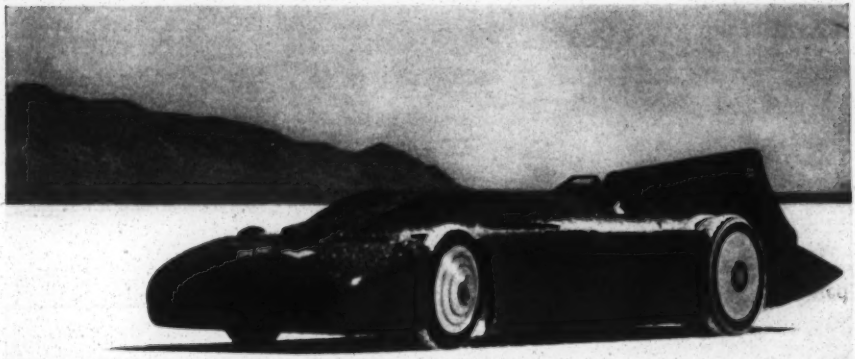
A new air record between Honolulu and San Francisco—14 hours 35 minutes—was made November 19 by the *Hawaii Clipper*.

The altitude record for airplanes was broken twice during 1937. On May 7 Colonel Mario Pezzi of Italy reached a height of 51,361 feet (approximately 9¾ miles). On July 2 Flight-Lieutenant M. J. Adam, of England, attained a height of 53,937 feet (approximately 10¼ miles).

A new record parachute jump from an altitude of 36,210 feet was made August 25 by a Russian, K. F. Kaitanoff.

Using a diving suit, and breathing a mixture of helium and oxygen instead of normal air (nitrogen and oxygen), Max E. Nohl, on December 1, descended 420 feet below the surface of Lake Michigan. The previous record in a diving suit was 361 feet, established in 1916.

**Bulletin No. 4, January 24, 1938.**



*Photograph Courtesy Salt Lake Tribune-Telegram*

**ONLY SPEED RECORDS CAN GROW WHERE A RECEDING SEA SALTED DOWN A RACE TRACK**

**On the barren salt flats in Utah where ancient Lake Bonneville dried up, the speed record for automobiles was boosted by British Capt. George E. T. Eyston to 311.42 miles per hour. Previous records were established in the same place by Sir Malcolm Campbell, pictured above in his racing *Bluebird* which set a 301-m.p.h. record in September, 1935. In 1937 Sir Malcolm took to the water for a change, and on Lake Maggiore, Italy, he set a new world record for motorboat speed, 129.416 miles per hour.**

the "live cars." These are scows made of slats, floating half-submerged in the water in which the lobsters are held captive.

Twice a month a boat sails from the island. It carries the scant mail, any passengers, and a load of lobsters, which are often two-and-a-half feet long and weigh as much as from 10 to 12 pounds.

### Tank Ships Keep Lobsters Alive

The island schooner is fitted with special built-in tanks, so that sea water is let in and circulates freely to keep the lobsters alive. On reaching port the tanks are pumped out; then a man climbs down and lifts out the lobsters, one at a time.

Occasionally a few lobsters are canned at a small plant on the island but usually they are shipped alive to "Valpo," as the people of the south call Valparaiso.

This island where Selkirk lived, and had the experiences which gave Defoe the idea for *Robinson Crusoe,* should not be confused, however, with Tobago, in the West Indies, the island Defoe had in mind as the setting for his novel. "Friday," it will be recalled, was a Carib Indian, and the fictional Robinson Crusoe was shipwrecked near the mouth of the Orinoco River. But Juan Fernández has the stronger appeal to the popular imagination as the actual place where a human being spent four years and four months alone, creating his own world, lord of all he surveyed.

Note: See also "Voyage to the Island Home of Robinson Crusoe," in the *National Geographic Magazine,* for September, 1928.

The Juan Fernández group of islands and also Tobago may be located on The Society's new Map of South America which was issued as a free supplement with the December, 1937, Magazine. Additional copies of this map may be obtained from The Society's Washington, D. C., headquarters at 50c (paper edition) and 75c (linen edition).

**Bulletin No. 5, January 24, 1938.**

*Photograph by Dr. Waldo L. Schmitt*

**PITY POOR CRUSOE: HIS LOBSTER DINNERS WERE FREE**

**Selkirk, whose solitary existence on Juan Fernández inspired *Robinson Crusoe,* was surrounded by lobsters now internationally famed as a table delicacy. The lobster of this Pacific island is minus the large claws which distinguish the lobster of North Atlantic waters. It is a close relative of the American crawfish, known as the spiny lobster in Florida. Their long feelers serve as convenient handles.**